

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING A HEALTH QUALITY RESOLUTION

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution on health-care quality. It expresses the sense of the House that Congress not pass any legislation that: Makes health insurance unaffordable; swells the ranks of the uninsured; diverts scarce health resources to lawyers and bureaucrats; or imposes political considerations on medical practice, such as so-called body-part mandates.

The resolution is needed to remind us our first duty is to "do no harm," and thus not to pass any so-called "quality" bill that would in fact do serious harm to the quality of patient care. I am thinking of bills like the White House-Democrat Leadership "Patient Bill of Rights Act," a bill that would have the perverse effect of eliminating every kind of managed-care plan except restrictive HMOs, enable nurses and doctors to go on strike, and drive up premiums and drive down coverage by letting trial lawyers sue health plans for malpractice. Worst of all, this liberal dream bill would let HHS bureaucrats define "medical necessity," which is as good as giving them power over life and death. It is an audacious step toward Clintoncare.

I am the first to acknowledge the serious flaws in today's health-care system. While America leads the world in excellent medical drugs, devices, and doctors, and while insurance plans are improving every day thanks to market forces, the fact is we have real problems in our health system.

Government policy, both state and federal, makes insurance unaffordable for millions.

The tax break for health insurance discriminates against the unemployed and small-business workers.

Many employers offer their workers no real choice of plans or doctors.

And of course we have all heard about the bad health plans, the ones that deny service in violation of contract, or that let remote bureaucrats with cook books impose medical decisions over the advice of trained, on-site health professionals. I do not know how many of these accusations are true, but even one is too many if it is true and preventable. So this problem demands our serious attention.

But in trying to improve, we have an obligation not to destroy. We should serve the good of patients and consumers, and not the financial interests of certain industries or trade associations. Above all, we should not assist President Clinton in his openly acknowledged scheme to socialize our health system step by step.

In passing this resolution, the House would be going on record in favor of legislation that promotes rather than degrades quality. It is identical to a resolution by Senator NICKLES of Oklahoma that recently passed the Senate by

a vote of 98 to zero. Even Senator KENNEDY voted for it, reluctantly. I want us to approve the Nickles resolution in the House, so that we may not be outdone in our zeal for good by our distinguished colleagues across the Ronda.

REMEMBRANCE OF ANNA M. SULLIVAN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the passing of Mrs. Anna M. Sullivan of Cranston, Rhode Island, a dear friend and dedicated public servant. Anna has been a leader in her church and her community, an inspiration to her family and friends, and has left behind a legacy of public service.

Music was a large part of her life. At the age of 13, Anna began to play the organ and direct the choir for her church. Through 53 years and five children that devotion never changed. Mrs. Sullivan was also the elementary music supervisor for the Warwick public school system for many years.

If Anna is to be remembered for one issue, it is her strong, lifelong fight in opposition to abortion and support of the family. Anna's work as a right to life advocate began in 1970, when she and others organized a group to oppose the attempts by some lawmakers to make abortion legal.

They originally called themselves the Constitutional Right to Life Committee, but later changed the name to Rhode Island State Right to Life. In 1979, Anna founded Right to Life Services, which provides baby clothes and equipment to as many as two thousand needy families each year.

Anna lobbied legislators on a number of topics she felt passionately about. Anna led the fight against assisted suicide in Rhode Island. Another issue of particular concern to Anna was increasing nutritional support for pregnant women. She helped underprivileged people and young women who were pregnant. While she met many people she disagreed with, she always treated them with respect.

In 1982, she received the Monsignor Charles W. McConnell Memorial Award from the Diocese of Providence's Catholic Youth Organization. In 1985, she became the first woman to receive the Hope Award from the Rhode Island State Council for the Knights of Columbus. In 1989, in a ceremony at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, she was awarded the Papal Cross, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice".

Anna, who leaves behind ten children and nine grandchildren, never forgot her family despite her many public service activities. Anna will be missed by her friends, family, and community. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to her family at this time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was in my district to participate in Indiana's primary elections. As a result I was unable to vote on roll call votes #122-126. If I had been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call #122, and "yes" on roll call #123-126.

PRAISE FOR MS. ELEANOR EPSTEIN, SPRING HONOREE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OF BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly generous and caring woman in my community in Bergen County, New Jersey—Ms. Eleanor Epstein of Englewood Cliffs. Eleanor Epstein has carved a place for herself as an energetic and forceful advocate for children and the elderly. She appreciates her heritage and understands that being part of a community is about giving others a hand up so that each of us has the tools to succeed.

This month, Ms. Epstein is being honored by the United Jewish Appeal for her many years of outstanding service to the community. Her list of accomplishments leave no doubt of her position as the consummate community leader. She helped found the United Jewish Community Center on the Palisades while also serving on the Women's Division of the former United Jewish Fund of Englewood, New Jersey, the United Jewish Appeal's Dor L'Dor Society and as a Ruby Lion of Judah.

Through these organizations, she reached out to the entire community, providing family activities, support, and aid to the entire citizenry of North Jersey. It is through the passions and drive of people like Eleanor Epstein that empower hometowns across America to evolve beyond simple houses and businesses into vibrant, caring communities. She brings with her an enormous strong civic pride and a deeply ingrained sense of service and concern for fellow human beings that spreads to all those with whom she comes in contact.

Ms. Epstein learned the value of community and service from her parents during her childhood in Brooklyn, New York. From those strong spiritual and family roots, she not only gave to the community, she dedicated herself to a strong marriage of 50 years to her husband Edward, another devoted and beloved figure in our community. Together they raised four loving, caring and equally philanthropic sons who have given them eleven grandchildren that they cherish beyond words.

Mr. Speaker, all of this being said, I wish to take a moment and wish Ms. Epstein all the

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